CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amend the claims as shown below in marked-up format.

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of early warning of potential litigation, within an entity, comprising:

gathering data from internal and external sources;

reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

prioritizing said potential litigation issues;

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

determining whether said potential litigation issues justify an alert based on a risk level of said potential litigation issues;

issuing said alert as a communication from a legal department to at least one recipient if justified and monitoring an action from said alert;

if said alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a report based on said risk level of said potential litigation issues, said risk level for said report being lower than said risk level for said alert;

issuing said report as a communication from said legal department to at least one recipient and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on said potential litigation issues occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

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5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said monitoring further comprising:

logging said alert on a database;

deciding whether to implement pre-litigation changes;

documenting rationale for a negative decision, if said deciding is negative;

assigning corrective action;

logging said alert on a compliance database;

implementing corrective action;

reporting implementation of said corrective action to a litigation department;

updating said database to reflect timing and corrective action taken; and

confirming that enacted compliance actions are in place and remain appropriate.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending a copy of said alert to organizations outside said entity.

7. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for an early warning of litigation, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide criteria for said user to determine whether said potential litigation issues justify an alert based on a risk level of said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issuing said alert if justified and monitoring an action from said alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist said user to determine whether said potential litigation issues justify a report based on a risk level of said potential litigation issues if said alert is not justified, said risk level for said report being lower than said risk level for said alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue said report and track its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessment within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution if litigation on said issue occurs.

8. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

9. (Previously Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for an early warning of litigation said computer program product having:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to gather data from internal and external sources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist a user in reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to prioritize said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to communicate with and consult with outside counsel computer system to obtain

specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to provide criteria for user to determine whether said potential litigation issues justify an alert based on a risk level of said potential litigation issues;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue said alert if justified and monitor an action from said alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to assist user to determine whether said potential litigation issues justify a report based on said risk level of said potential litigation issues if said alert is not justified, said risk level for said report being lower than said risk level for said alert;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to issue said report and track its issuance; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to monitor and support in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessment within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution if litigation on said issue occurs.

11. (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

12. (Previously Amended) The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

13. (Currently Amended) In a computer network that includes (i) a plurality of servers for accessing a plurality of network sites containing various types of content, which can be viewed and listened to as appropriate, and downloaded when desired, and that includes (ii) a plurality of client systems connected to a server for purposes of browsing the network sites, a method of early warning of potential litigation, comprising:

gathering data from internal and external sources;

reviewing potential litigation issues from said gathered data;

prioritizing said potential litigation issues;

consulting with outside counsel to obtain specialized assistance in selected said potential litigation issues;

determining whether said potential litigation issues justify an alert based on a risk level of said potential litigation issues;

issuing said alert as a communication from a legal department to at least one recipient if justified and monitoring an action from said alert;

if said alert is not justified, determining whether said issue justifies a report based on said risk level of said potential litigation issues, said risk level for said report being lower than said risk level for said alert;

issuing said report as a communication from said legal department to at least one recipient and tracking its issuance; and

if litigation on said potential litigation issues occurs, proceeding in a traditional litigation manner, including risk assessments within a predetermined time frame and early dispute resolution.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim 13 wherein in said method, said alert is an Early Warning System alert.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim 13 wherein in said method, said report is an Emerging Issue Report.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer network of claim 13 wherein in said method, said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

17. (Previously Added) The article of manufacture of claim 7 wherein said alert is an Early Warning System Alert.

18. (Previously Added) The computer program product of claim 10 wherein said predetermined time frame is sixty days.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said gathered data includes litigation monitoring of industry litigation, said potential litigation issues being based on said litigation monitoring of industry litigation.

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